AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Allowable) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or which is complementary thereto over its full length.

2. (Allowable) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or which is complementary thereto over its full length.

3.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% nucleotide identity with SEQ ID NO:1 over its full length, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA and induces ~~modulates~~ IFN-γ production.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Allowable) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

9. (Allowable) The vector of claim 8, which is an expression vector.

10. (Allowable) A host cell containing the vector of claim 9.

11. (Allowable) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 10 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

12. (Allowable) The method of claim 11, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

13.-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: inducing IFN-γ production in CD4+ cells, inducing Th1-associated cytokine production, inhibiting production of IL-2, and inducing the differentiation of Thp cells and Th2 cells into Th1 cells.

51. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 over the full length of the isolated nucleic acid molecule in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C under stringent conditions, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA and induces ~~modulates~~ IFN-γ production.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to a consensus T-box site in DNA and induces ~~modulates~~ IFN-γ production.

54. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

55. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of at least 700 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto over the full length of the isolated nucleic acid molecule.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~The~~ nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 ~~of claim 51~~, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.

58. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 700 nucleotides which are complementary to at least 700 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising a constitutive promotor.

62. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising an inducible promotor.

63. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.

64. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 50, wherein the Th1-associated cytokine is selected from the group consisting of IFNγ, TNF, and Lymphotoxin.

65. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 ~~claim 4 or 6~~, wherein the identity is determined by the BLAST program using the default Blastn matrix.

66. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 6 ~~claim 4~~.

67. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 53 or 55.

68. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 66, which is an expression vector.

69. (Previously Presented) A host cell containing the vector of claim 68.

70. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 69 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

72. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 67, which is an expression vector.

73. (Previously Presented) A host cell containing the vector of claim 72.

74. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 73 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

76. (Canceled)

77. (Canceled)

78. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 68, comprising a constitutive promotor.

79. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 68, comprising an inducible promotor.

80. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 68, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.

81. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 72, comprising a constitutive promotor.

82. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 72, comprising an inducible promotor.

83. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 72, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.

84. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 53, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: inducing IFN-γ production in CD4+ cells, inducing Th1-associated cytokine production, inhibiting production of IL-2, and inducing the differentiation of Thp cells and Th2 cells into Th1 cells.

85. (Canceled)

86. (Canceled)

87. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, or which is complementary thereto over its full length.

88. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, or which is complementary thereto over its full length.

89. (Canceled)

90. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% nucleotide identity with SEQ ID NO:3 over its full length, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA and induces ~~modulates~~ IFN-γ production.

91. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 over the full length of the nucleic acid molecule in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C under stringent conditions, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA and induces ~~modulates~~ IFN-γ production.

92. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to a consensus T-box site in DNA and induces ~~modulates~~ IFN-γ production.

93. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof thereof over the full length of the isolated nucleic acid molecule.

94. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 500 nucleotides which are complementary to at least 500 nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:3.

95. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 87 ~~or 89~~.

96. (Withdrawn) The vector of claim 95, which is an expression vector.

97. (Withdrawn) A host cell containing the vector of claim 96.

98. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 97 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

99. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 98, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

100. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 87 ~~claim 89~~, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: inducing IFN-γ production in CD4+ cells, inducing Th1-associated cytokine production, inhibiting production of IL-2, and inducing the differentiation of Thp cells and Th2 cells into Th1 cells.

101. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 87, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

102. (Currently Amended; Withdrawn) An isolated ~~The~~ nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 ~~of claim 91~~, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.

103. (Withdrawn) The expression vector of claim 96, comprising a constitutive promotor.

104. (Withdrawn) The expression vector of claim 96, comprising an inducible promotor.

105. (Withdrawn) The expression vector of claim 96, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.

106. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 100, wherein the Th1-associated cytokine is selected from the group consisting of IFNγ, TNF, and Lymphotoxin.

107. (Withdrawn) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 91 or 92.

108. (Withdrawn) The vector of claim 107, which is an expression vector.

109. (Withdrawn) A host cell containing the vector of claim 108.

110. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host

cell of claim 109 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

111. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 110, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

112. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 92, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

113. (Canceled)

114. (Canceled)